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The Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

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I. GASL Mission, Changing Nature and Flexible Governance: 2010 – 2016

1. During the past 10 years, further to the decision by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 22nd Session in June 2010, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) has facilitated policy dialogue and action among diverse stakeholders to make livestock systems more sustainable. In 2016, GASL adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the reference framework for all its activities and decided to specifically address the links between livestock development and the SDGs (Panama Declaration). That same year COAG at its 25th Session recognized the changing nature and the flexible governance processes of GASL. The 25th Session noted the important linkage between the governance of GASL and the SDGs and recognized FAO's key role as an intergovernmental stakeholder, programmatic collaborator and secretariat function. Consequently, COAG also encouraged FAO to enhance its support to GASL.

II. GASL Alignment with the SDGs and the Four Sustainability Domains: 2017-2018

2. While livestock systems are relevant to all SDGs, GASL recognized nine SDGs with particular importance for the livestock sector: SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17¹. In its current 2019-2021 Action Plan, GASL adopted the four sustainability domains adopted by the 2018 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin ("Shaping the Future of Livestock – sustainably, responsibly, efficiently") as a way to better focus its actions in support of achieving the SDGs. The GASL Action Plan has already received the financial support of several important donors such as France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Dairy Platform and the Confédération Nationale de l'Élevage (France).

III. GASL Approach to Foster Sustainable Practice and Policy Change

3. GASL provides an innovative multi-stakeholder platform for policy dialogue and joint action of 111 institutional partners around the world, enhancing awareness, political will and capacity to generate and share a wide range of technical and policy solutions for sustainable livestock at international, country and local level. Championed by well-known research institutions through the GASL Action Networks, some of these solutions include a resource efficiency matrix, a multi-criteria grasslands value model, the positioning of dairy products as a source of nutrition and employment in Asia, livestock environmental and performance guidelines, good practices to mitigate the impact of anti-microbial resistance, good animal welfare practices to enhance animal productivity, the contribution of dairy development to poverty and hunger reduction, the contribution of silvopastoral systems to the SDGs in Latin America, and the NGOs Policy Brief on innovation in livestock systems.

4. Stakeholders are grouped into seven clusters: the public sector, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), donors, academia and research (A&R) centres, social movements and community-based organizations (pastoralist groups), and intergovernmental and multilateral organizations such as FAO, the World Bank (WB), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the African Union (AU). Each cluster is represented by five members in a Guiding Group (GG), led by the GASL Chair, who provides guidance in line with the GASL Action Plan.

IV. GASL's Footprint around the World

5. Specific countries and regions that have adopted appropriate policies and legislation in favour of sustainable livestock development are now using GASL's principles and its Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) approach. The expected outcome of producing practice and policy change in favour of sustainable livestock development around the world can be seen in Mesoamerica (CODEGALAC resolutions) and Mongolia (Mongolian Agenda for Sustainable Livestock), and is rapidly developing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (the Uman Conclusions) and South America (2018 Regional MSP Meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil). Other key livestock partnerships, such as the Livestock Environmental

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Assessment and Performance (LEAP) partnership, Dairy Asia, the Dairy Sustainability Framework and the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, have actively participated in Action Network activities and in MSP Meetings. Recent developments in COP23, COP25 and the 10th and 11th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in 2018 and 2019 in Berlin, Germany, recognized the Global Agenda as an important platform to contribute to the solution of the sustainability challenges in the livestock sector.

V. The GASL Theory of Change

6. An external evaluation requested by FAO in 2018 recommended GASL to develop an explicit Theory of Change (ToC) to define a mid-term vision and strategic pathways to induce sustainable change in the next 10 years. GASL stakeholders are currently developing such a ToC, facilitated by the Wageningen Center for Development Innovation, to be concluded in July 2020. This planning effort will feed appropriately into the 2022-2024 GASL Action Plan.

VI. GASL Actions on Zoonosis Threats

7. The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the livestock sector around the world, but also highlighted the importance of livestock systems to keep feeding the world during the crisis. GASL stakeholders form a solid global network that have provided timely information on the impacts and policy implications of the pandemic in the five continents. This valuable support has helped FAO to understand and assist policy makers with the analysis of priority actions.

VII. Reporting

The 27th Session of COAG is welcome to provide feedback on the GASL progress reported in this document, implemented by its partners and stakeholders through its Clusters and Action Networks, in preparation for the next action plan for the period 2022-2024.